



Economics Bulletin

Volume 28, Issue 65

Conference Announcement

Conference in Public Economics

Location : Marseille, France

Organizers : Institut d'économie publique (IDEP)

Major Topics : public economics, health economics, insurance economics, information economics, IO

Conference Dates : 6/10/2004 to 6/10/2004

Submission Deadline : 2/15/2004

Send Submissions To : gravel@ehess.cnrs-mrs.fr

Sponsoring Organizations :

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The Third "Journées d'Économie Publique Louis-André Gérard-Varet" will be held in Marseille June 10 - 11, 2004 on the general theme of : HEALTH, INSURANCE AND EQUITY In the spirit of the Institut d'économie publique (IDEP) and its founder, Louis-André Gérard-Varet, this conference aims at encouraging production and diffusion of high quality research in public economics, with a special emphasis towards results which contribute significantly to improve public decision making. The third edition of this conference, organised under the general theme «Health, Insurance and Equity» will gather contributions that shed light on a question that lies at the very heart of most discussions surrounding the reforms of health care systems : that of the "optimal" mix between private and public insurance. The variety of national experiences illustrates the lack of consensus on the role that individual responsibility should play in these decisions. Part of the difficulty in finding this optimal mix clearly comes from the various information asymmetries that characterise the functioning of health insurance and health care systems. To the standard problems of adverse selection and moral hazard that provide the informational advantage to the beneficiaries must be added similar asymmetries that give the informational advantage to the suppliers of health care and insurance. While it seems unlikely that, from a pure efficiency standpoint, such a combination of informational asymmetries should favour a system solely based on private insurance, the introduction of distributive considerations raised by the allocation of a "good" of such primordial importance for human well-being as health makes the issue of the optimal risk sharing between private and public insurance even more complex. In order to shed new light on these issues, the organising committee calls for papers not only from health economics but also from the following fields : Insurance economics, Information economics, Industrial organisation and regulation, Optimal taxation, Normative economics and ethics, Theoretical and empirical measurement of inequalities, Local public economics and fiscal federalism, Political economy. Proposals (in the form of a complete paper or, at the very least, of a two-pages abstract) must be sent to the organising committee no later than February 15th, 2004. They can be sent (preferably by electronic mail) to : Prof. Nicolas Gravel IDEP/GREQAM - Centre de la Vieille Charité 2 rue de la Charité - 13002 Marseille - France gravel@ehess.cnrs-mrs.fr The selection of papers will be made no later than March 15th, 2004. A selection of the papers presented at the Conference will be published in a special issue of the Journal "Annales d'Economie et de Statistiques". In addition to contributed papers, the conference will host a number of invited lectures, three of which by Marc Fleurbaey, Mark Pauly and by Nobel prize laureate James Mirrlees.

Submitted: October 16, 2003 **Published:** October 16, 2003.

URL: <http://www.accessecon.com/pubs/EB/2003/Volume29/EB-03CC0068A.pdf>